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CENTRAL ASSOCIATION

FOR

THE RELIEF

OF THE

Soldiers of South Carolina.

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THE PLAN, AND ADDRESS,

ADOPTED BY THE CITIZENS OF COLUMBIA,

OCTOBER 20, 1862.

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# CENTRAL RELIEF ASSOCIATION

FOR

SOUTH CAROLINA SOLDIERS.

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## PUBLIC MEETING.

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COLUMBIA, October 20, 1862.

At a public meeting held this day, in the City Hall, to receive the report of the committee appointed at an adjourned meeting, on the 8th October, to devise some plan for the relief of our suffering soldiers in the army, Dr. M. LaBorde was requested to take the Chair, and Edward Hope to act as Secretary.

Hon. John Townsend, as Chairman of the Committee, stated that they had found it necessary to correspond with the authorities in Richmond, and upon a moderate calculation, South Carolina had ten thousand soldiers in Virginia in a destitute condition; that the constant demands of the army had well-nigh exhausted supplies.

The report of the committee was then submitted.

### REPORT.

The committee appointed to "devise some plan by which relief may be provided and sent on to our suffering soldiers in the most practicable form, and with the least possible delay, and that they report this plan to the consideration of our citizens, at a meeting to be called for that purpose at an early day," make the following report:

That the situation of our army and the near approach of winter demand immediate and prompt action. We earnestly recommend to the benevolent and patriotic citizens of every district in the state to call meetings at their respective court-houses, and organize a Central District Committee.

### *District Committees.*

This committee to appoint energetic and public-spirited citizens in all sections of the district, whose duty it shall be to collect all articles of clothing and supplies for our soldiers in the army and hospitals, or money, as may be most needed at the time, and see personally to the delivery of the same to the Chairman of the Central Committee of their district, whose duty it will be to transmit the same to the Chairman of the Central Committee of the state, to be located at Columbia, as hereinafter to be more particularly designated. The transmission of these articles, money, etc., to be made at such times and in such way as will secure their prompt and safe delivery to the committee in Columbia, and to be directed and delivered to the Chairman of the said Central Committee, who will duly acknowledge the receipt of the same.

### *Central Committee: their Duties.*

We further recommend, that a Central Committee, consisting of ten gentlemen, be appointed by the Chairman of this meeting, whose duty it shall be to act for the City of Columbia and District of Richland, discharging the same duties as are above recommended to the different districts in our state, and in addition to these duties, to secure a depot for the reception and security of all articles forwarded to the Chairman of said Committee. In the arrangement of the depot at Columbia, and which will be under the immediate control and direction of the Committee, all articles and packages sent to *companies* or *individuals* to be kept separate from all general contributions, so that their safe delivery will be the better secured by the persons to whom they are directed.

### *How Packages are to be marked and sent.*

In making up the packages or boxes of articles, it is recommended that a card, with plain and full directions, be placed on the bundle or box; or, what is more secure, paint the directions on the box or package, and one with similar directions be placed inside, so that if the card or paint on the outside be destroyed, the card within will direct the delivery. Whenever a sufficient quantity of supplies for our army have accumulated at the depot in Columbia to make a shipment proper, the Central Committee will forward the same to a depot located at Richmond, Va., under the immediate care of an agent, sent on by the Central Committee at Columbia, to see personally that these supplies are safely and promptly delivered at the depot in Richmond, and take his receipt for the same.

### *Depot to be established at Richmond, and duties of Agent.*

Your committee further recommend that a depot be secured at Richmond by the Central Committee, for the sole use of the people of our state, and for the benefit of our own citizens who are now in the service in Virginia; that this depot be under the care and control of a gentleman who will have, and who deserves, the confidence of the people of our state. It will be made the duty of the gentleman appointed to take charge of the depot at Richmond, to give to the officers commanding the soldiers from South Carolina, as well by general notice in the newspapers as by special notice to our officers, information of the establishment of our depot, and the objects proposed to be accomplished by the location of said depot at Richmond, and requesting that they would, when necessary, detail a member of their company or regiment, to be sent to the depot at Richmond, with a written statement of the articles needed in their companies or regiments, and which detailed soldier sent to Richmond would be able to take to the respective companies or regiments a portion of the general contribution, as well as the private contributions intended for persons in the said companies or regiments.

### *May send a special Agent. Private packages to be kept separate from General Contributions.*

Or, that the superintendent of the depot adopt such other method of ascertaining the wants of the army, and the mode of transmitting supplies, as his judgment and experience may suggest. In the depot at Richmond, the same arrangements of separating the general contributions from the

private packages as is recommended in the central depot at Columbia, to be observed. It will further be the duty of the agent for the state, at Richmond, to cause to be faithfully delivered all articles sent to the patients in the hospitals in and near Richmond, and whatever of the general contributions he may think advisable and necessary, and to send by a special and reliable agent articles and supplies to our soldiers in the different hospitals in the State of Virginia, and that he take such measures as will inform him, from time to time, of the wants of our sick soldiers in said hospitals, situated at a distance from Richmond.

*May retain in the depot in Columbia a portion of the General Contributions for our Soldiers in South Carolina.*

That the Central Committee, in Columbia, acting upon the best information they may be able to obtain, may retain in the depot in Columbia such a portion of the general contributions as they may think will best serve the purposes which we wish to accomplish, to be furnished to our soldiers in our own state, or in the other states, as exigencies may require, either in service or in our hospitals; and, also, to receive at our depot all private packages sent to men in our state or elsewhere; said contributions to be sent by special agents, by said Central Committee, or delivered to persons sent by their respective officers from our army, as the said Committee may hereafter determine. And it is further recommended; that the Central Committee at Columbia allow to the agents under their direction such reasonable compensation as will be just and proper.

Your Committee further recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That the address and report to the people of the state, herewith submitted, be adopted by this meeting.
2. *Resolved*, That all the papers of this state be requested to publish the same, and that three thousand copies be published in pamphlet form for general distribution.
3. *Resolved*, That copies of the above named pamphlet be furnished to the officiating ministers of all religious denominations throughout the state, with a request that they be read to their congregations.

## ADDRESS

TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN BEHALF OF THEIR DESTITUTE SOLDIERS.

*Fellow-citizens:* Less than three months have passed away since the capital of our Confederacy was beleaguered by the most formidable army which has ever been massed together on this continent. It was equipped with every weapon of war of the latest improvement (in ordnance, ammunition, and small arms) which modern science could invent, or the most lavish expenditure of money could provide; its appointments were complete in everything which the most powerful nation on earth, assisted by an unlimited commerce, could supply; the perfection of its discipline, after eighteen months drill, by masters in the art, made it the admiration and boast of its countrymen; and it was assisted in its movements by one of the most powerful navies in the world. An army like this, thus formidable in everything which could make war destructive, and swarming over our country in numbers like the locusts of Egypt, was well calculated to create anxiety for the safety of our capital.

*Our Army inferior to that of the Enemy in their Equipments.*

It was known that we could oppose to this host an army inferior to theirs in everything, except courage and discipline; and, although we had every confidence in these qualities of our soldiers, yet to every reflecting man in the South, contemplating the fearful odds against us, there was an undefined dread for the result, which pressed like an overwhelming load upon his heart. "What if our army be overpowered, routed, destroyed, and Richmond taken?" was the anxious problem which every man pondered in his heart. "What if that barrier of brave hearts should be broken down by our enemies, and having nothing to oppose them they should sweep down over the South, leaving desolation behind them, as they have done in Northern Virginia, to be followed by other Northern hordes, greedy for plunder, burning with lust, and raging with fanaticism?" These were the painfully anxious musings of thoughtful men, as they contemplated the two armies confronting each other before Richmond, and the enemy possessing so many and such vast advantages over us.

*Our Military Reverses were calculated to Discourage us.*

The military reverses which had befallen us one after another for several months previous, had cast a gloom over the public mind, and had greatly intensified their anxiety about the fate of our army. The fall of Forts Donelson and Henry, and those near Port Royal, the occupation of Beaufort and the sea islands in this state, and several of the sea-coast towns in North Carolina, the surrender of New Orleans and Nashville, their occupation of large portions of Tennessee and Kentucky, and the Mississippi river, the evacuation of Pensacola and Norfolk, and the blowing up of the Merrimac—these, and other reverses, hung like a murky cloud over our political horizon, and caused many to despond, and a few even to despair. And now the enemy, with their vast and well-appointed army, is advancing upon Richmond. The peninsula is overrun, and their fortifications are planted almost at the gates of our capital, while their immense fleet is occupying all the approaches by water. But our army is there to meet them at every point.

At a spectacle which was so full of momentous consequences, both nations stood agaze, and men held their breath under the intenseness of their anxiety, while the pious raised their supplications to God for His blessing upon our arms.

*Our Trust in the Army of the Potomac for Deliverance.*

And now, fellow-citizens, can any man forget that, amidst the undefined fears, and doubts, and anxieties with which his mind was then distressed, he fixed his trust in our *army of the Potomac* as the only instrument, through God, to bring to us deliverance—the very army (or what is left of it, after the killed, and the wounded and sick in the hospitals are deducted) which, having heroically performed its work, stands now before their country, in their destitution and sufferings, and demands of her *justice* as the evidence of our gratitude. And have they not a claim to both, in fullest measure? Consider the condition of the country immediately preceding the battles before Richmond, as it has been briefly presented to you—consider the fearful odds against us everywhere and in everything, shut out from assistance, as we were, from all the world—consider the feverish temper of the public mind, under the influence of these discouraging circumstances, as it

waited, from day to day, for the bursting forth of the tempest which was to decide, perhaps, the fate of our country, and then form some estimate of the immeasurable benefits which that army secured to us, and the lively gratitude which was then felt, and which will ever be due to it. Carry your memories back to the time when, during that ominous calm which preceded the terrible storm, every man awaited the tidings from Richmond with breathless anxiety.

*Their heroism. The gratitude of the Nation. Their claims upon us for Relief.*

At length it comes. What sounds are these which shake the earth? It is the booming of deep-mouthed cannon and the rattling of ten thousands of musketry, and the shouts of armed men contending in deadly strife. The battle is begun! But here comes further tidings flashing over the electric wires, and what do they tell? "Victory, victory to the South!" And after seven days fighting, in which our soldiers poured out their blood like water, and performed deeds of valor which have made them the admiration of the world, still was each day's report, "victory" to our arms, slaughter and rout to our enemy, until they find shelter under the guns of their fleet! Who of you, then, fellow-citizens, did not feel proud of this army? Who of you did not then feel deeply grateful to them for the deliverance they had wrought for you, and the security which they had thrown around you? Remember, then, that the same army, although sadly reduced by death, wounds, and sickness, now confronts again the advance of our enemies on the banks of the Potomac. Remember the dangers and hardships they have suffered, in order that you, your families and property, might be safe; and then let the sentiment of gratitude and justice in your hearts, inspire you to remember their pressing wants, and urge you to supply them.

*What say the Women of the South?*

And now, citizens of South Carolina, what is your response? We will not ask this question of the women of the South. Many of them have their cherished ones, their husbands, their brothers and their sons, in one or the other of our armies; and God has put their hearts in the right place, and they have not allowed them to be warped aside by avarice or selfishness. The speculator, the monopolist, or the extortioner, cannot live within the pure atmosphere of woman's nature, and we know that *their* response will be all that liberality can devise, or patriotic industry accomplish.

*What say the Rich Men, and every citizen resolved to be free?*

We call next upon you, *rich men*—ye who have tens of thousands of property to protect, and thousands or hundreds to give, if ye will but forego your luxuries, and follow the promptings of your better nature. What is your response? We forbear to answer for you all as a class; the sequel will disclose your acts. We call upon you, *citizens of every class*, and of every degree in worldly goods—ye who have your wives and daughters to protect against a ruffian soldiery—who have your homes and property to save from confiscation—who have your personal rights and liberties to defend against the vilest and most vulgar tyranny on earth—the tyranny of the ranting Fanatic, and Abolitionist, who aim to degrade the white man to the level of the negro slave; what is your response? We will not doubt



but that it will be liberal, and that you will come up to the necessities of this great emergency, with the promptness of men who, having determined to protect their families and property, and preserve their liberties, have resolved to keep our armies in a state of the highest efficiency, as the best means of securing these ends.

*The "Sneaks" will be mute.*

But there is one small class, whom we would especially call upon—we allude to the "*sneaks*," who are to be found in every community; men who are loud-mouthed in their professions of attachment to our cause, and perhaps really "wish its success," but success, at the expense, and toil, and sacrifices of their neighbors; who will dodge the committee who may call upon them for their contributions, or be "not at home," or, "unfortunately, just out of funds," although they be rich men, and can command as much money as they want for any other purpose. Out upon all such for their meanness and selfishness, and if they have no noble motive to prompt the act, let them at least contribute from the selfish principle, which induces them to buy a policy of insurance against fire, or pay for the town watchman to guard their premises against thieves—evils which they will find dwindle into insignificance, compared with the loss of their liberty, and the confiscation of their property!

*What response do the Capitalists and Bankers make?*

And now, *capitalists* and *bankers*, we call upon you, who have millions, and tens of millions to invest, or to preserve in security. What is your response? Remember that your pecuniary interests are deeply involved in this issue. If the South is reduced to subjection, what becomes of Confederate bonds, and Confederate stocks, and Treasury notes? Will they ever be paid? By whom? If the Southern States accept the boon graciously tendered to them by their masters, and again become a part of the "glorious Union," will the debt contracted by us in conducting the "*rebellion*," be acknowledged, and provided for by the "*paternal*" Government, as a part of the national debt? If not, can the South ever pay it? How? Only by a direct tax. She will have no power to resort to the custom-house; that will belong to our masters. *Repudiation* will become a necessity. The Confederate Government promised to pay, but the Confederate Government will no longer exist. Look to it well, then, and see what interest you have in sustaining the war. There is not a bank in the state but holds a large amount of Confederate bonds, stocks or currency—so large that they must go to the wall if these are repudiated. What capitalist has not made large investments in this way? Let these parties look to it in time, and pursue the course which the instinct of *self-preservation*, if nothing higher, suggests, and support the war liberally, vigorously; and that is best done by providing for the soldiers, and keeping up our armies in a state of the highest efficiency.

*"Reconstruction of the old Union? or Subjugation?"*

*Ask the Exile.*

Let us not shut our eyes, fellow-citizens, to our true condition. The terms offered to us by our enemies are—"Reconstruction of the old Union," on their own terms; or, "Subjugation;" to be followed by political slavery, and confiscation of our property. What is your answer to these insolent

demands? If there be one man in the whole South, who, after the cruel malignity practiced upon us by our enemies, is still so craven as to desire reconstruction, let him go to the *exile* who has been driven from his home; who has been compelled to abandon his property, and has been reduced from affluence almost to beggary; and inquire of him what is his answer, and he will find it one of indignant scorn at the proposal. Let him next inquire in those regions of our country in which were once the pleasant abodes of abounding plenty and Southern hospitality—now laid waste and desolate by the enemy; where their old men have been shut up in prisons; the wives and maidens who once graced these homes, insulted and expelled by a brutal soldiery; their servants and their means of subsistence taken away from them, and all cast upon the cold charities of the world, and ask *these* what is their answer.

*Ask those suffering the privations of the War.*

Let him next go over that broad territory in the South which has not been visited by the enemy, and contemplate the privations to which our people have been reduced; let him witness with what un murmuring cheerfulness (as an evidence of their devotion to our cause) they have given up one comfort or luxury after another; nay, with what stern resolution they part with those things, which, from long familiarity, have ceased to be luxuries, and have become almost necessities; their *sugar*, their *family merchandise*, their *coffee*, and even their *salt*; let him contemplate the women and the young girls barefooted, guiding the plows, to obtain the food which was formerly provided by the sons and brothers now gone to the wars; and then let him first ask *himself*, if a people with such a spirit can be conquered; and then ask *them*, if they are willing to be again brought into a political union with a people, who have inflicted upon them such injuries; and their indignant answer will be, "never! never!"

*Those who have been made Widows and Orphans by the War.*

Let him next enter those domiciles now draped in mourning, which are dotted all over our land, and which were once the happy abodes of parental and filial love, and let him inquire of its weeping inmates if they are willing to have association or connection with a people who have sent forth their armies to slaughter their husbands, their brothers and their sons, and from their heaving bosoms, oppressed with grief, hear their piteous cry—"never! no, never!"

*Ask the Yeomanry of the South.*

Let him, finally, attend those assemblages of our people, where every class and condition of our citizens are to be found, and inquire of all ages, from the gray-headed sire down to the beardless stripling, if they desire a reconstruction of the old Union, or will consent to *live* and be subjugated, and with one mighty shout of scorn and defiance, their cry will be, "Never! never! never! We loathe an alliance with men who have warred upon us from motives so vile and mercenary, and we sling defiance at the vulgar tyranny which attempts to subjugate and enslave us. The blood of our slaughtered kinsmen calls upon us for vengeance, and the impoverished and homeless exile claims from us, as his countrymen, protection and redress."

### *War and the efficiency of our Armies our only alternative.*

If then, fellow-citizens, such be, as it undoubtedly is, your firm and unalterable purpose, then there is but one way to accomplish it, and that is, by accepting the alternative forced upon us by our enemies—*war*—fierce, and, if necessary, bloody war, until we shall conquer an honorable peace and achieve our independence. Our armies of protection and defence must be equal in efficiency to their armies of invasion and attempted subjugation; and if our government be incapable of providing everything for their efficiency, we should endeavor, to the extent of our ability, to supply the deficiency. And here is the precise point to which we would invoke your earnest thoughts and patriotic efforts.

### *Cause of the Destitution of our Soldiers.*

It is known that after the seven days of battles and victories around Richmond, which resulted in our driving the enemy discomfited to the shelter of the guns of their fleet, that they took the earliest opportunity to abandon that base-line which they said they of *choice* had selected; and leaving the peninsula, they massed their troops around General Pope in the neighborhood of Manassas. There, our armies, by rapid marches, followed them, like eager blood-hounds in pursuit of their prey. In doing this, with the celerity which the movement required, it became necessary that our men should disencumber themselves of most of their baggage. In some Divisions, it is said, their knapsacks were left by order of their officers in huge piles, under the uncertain protection of a few sentinels to guard them. The severe service during the seven days fighting near Richmond, the rapid marching to the Rappahannock in search of the enemy, the pursuit of *them* from that place to Manassas, the three days fighting in that neighborhood, the slaughter and utter rout of our enemies there, and our rapid pursuit until we drove them out of Virginia, our crossing the Potomac into Maryland, the frequent and severe battles there fought, and our subsequent returning across the Potomac, occupied a space of a little more than a month, during which it is said, by one who was present, that "our army rested but four days." The unparalleled severity of these rapid marches tested to the extreme the endurance of our soldiers. Thousands fell down exhausted by the wayside; other thousands struggled on with the army, throwing away one article after another of their clothing, to ease themselves of their burden, until many of them were left with but a single suit, and many without a blanket. In that one suit they marched by day, and in that one suit they fell down upon the cold ground, foot-sore and exhausted, and slept by night. These painful sacrifices our gallant soldiers heroically endured to advance the success of our arms. But their patriotic ardor was greater than their capacity of endurance, and nature at last gave up under the accumulated sufferings of scanty food and long marches—both aggravated tenfold by the want of shoes to shield their feet from the stones, and the want of clothing to protect their bodies from the chilly dews of night. Owing to these causes, chiefly, and to the sickness incident to these exposures, it is estimated that there were from thirty to fifty thousand stragglers (so called) who were absent from the bloody battle of Sharpsburg, the most of whom were broken down, and although eager for the fight, were *physically unable* to go upon the field.

### *This destitution nearly occasioned the defeat of our army.*

In reviewing the incidents of that momentous struggle, the mind shudders at the thought of the extreme peril to which, at one time, our army

was exposed; and we are taught a lesson which it will be profitable to lay to heart. Weakened by the extraordinary defections from our ranks, to which we have just alluded, and pressed upon by the whole power of our foe in overwhelming numbers, we were saved from utter defeat *only* by the indomitable courage of our soldiers. And who does not know that *defeat*, at that time, would have been the ruin of our army, to be followed by the most disastrous consequences to our whole country?

Upon causes apparently, then, so trivial, does the fate of a people frequently depend! Had our army been routed at Sharpsburg, it would have resulted in its ruin; and the only barrier would thus have been broken down which prevented the enemy from taking possession of Richmond; and then would have followed all the deplorable consequences to the Confederacy, and especially to the Atlantic states of the South, which such a calamity would have flooded upon us.

But if we are indebted, for deliverance, to the prowess of our troops, who fought on that day with a bravery and determined resolution like to which soldiers never before fought, let us remember that the *same causes now exist* which then weakened our army—by keeping out of the field tens of thousands of our troops, and which nearly brought us to ruin.

### *Extent of this destitution.*

It is stated by one who was present on the occasion, that of those who fought that battle, "one-fifth of them were bare footed, and one-half of them in rags;" and such we may infer was the condition of most of those who fell off by the way, and have been branded as "stragglers." We here have an amount of destitution, which is deplorable to think of; and in the near approach of winter, the exposure of our soldiers in the open field, in that inhospitable climate, calls upon every feeling within us, of duty, humanity, gratitude, and patriotism, to come forward without delay and send them relief.

We come now to inquire how shall that relief be provided? And here the committee would premise that, in a claim of such magnitude, our people should prepare themselves to make *sacrifices*. To limit themselves to mere superfluities, in making up their offerings, would often fall very far short of just expectations, and their duty toward our suffering soldiers. They need shoes, blankets, socks, shirts, coats, *pants*, drawers, and, in a few cases, hats and great-coats. These must be purchased already made, or the materials purchased and made up by our wives and daughters.

### *How shall it be relieved?*

A large amount of money will then be required to make these purchases. Let those, then, give liberally of their money who have it; and they who have not, obtain the materials if they can, and work them up into shoes or garments; and if these sources fail, then let us resort to our domestic supply, and divide with our soldiers *our own clothes and blankets*. Let no one object to the "motley uniform" which our various wardrobes will impart to our army. We may take to ourselves the consolation of knowing that we have done the best in our power; and that it is better to have in our army the uniformity of variety, than the "uniform" of rags or nakedness. If necessary to the keeping up of our army in the field, and, therefore, to the success of our cause in establishing our independence, it would be a false pride, and a silly one, to object to sharing our blankets and our wardrobe with our soldiers. It is but transferring these from

friends at home to relatives in the army; and if need be, we will divide our clothes again, and yet again, with our brethren there, until we shall be reduced ourselves, not to rags (for Southern women will not allow friends at home to come to that), but to darns and patches, which may yet become the honorable badges, by which to distinguish the patriots of our second Revolution. The man who has unalterably resolved that this Confederacy shall be free and independent, has no place for so unworthy a sentiment as *shame*, if it stand in the way of its honorable accomplishment.

*The New materials in the hands of Speculators, Monopolists, and Extortioners.*

We have enlarged upon this point, because it is sadly manifest to us, fellow-citizens, that the stock of material to be wrought up into shoes and clothing is not so much *scanty* as it may be beyond our reach, from the extravagant prices at which they are held. They are in the hands of speculators, monopolists and extortioners, whose souls are so steeped in avarice, as to be insensible to any appeals of humanity or patriotism. They care nothing for the soldier, whether he perish for lack of clothing. They care nothing for the soldier's wife and family whom he has left at home, but grind out of their necessities the extremest prices for the few articles (their *yarn*, their *cloth*, their *sugar*, and their *salt*) which are indispensable to them. In procuring, then, supplies for our soldiers, we cannot depend upon the stores in the hands of such voracious cormorants, but leave them to the judgment which God has denounced upon the extortioner, and under the full persuasion that the sighs and the tears of the poor, which have been gathered in with those treasures, will eat them up like a canker, and leave, in the end, nothing but barrenness in their coffers.

If, then, we cannot purchase from the public warehouses the shoes and garments needed for our soldiers, and if we are debarred the use of the unwrought materials in the hands of monopolists, then our only resource is to call upon our own wardrobes and blankets; which, with diligence in collecting, and industry in repairing them, would go far in relieving the present necessities of our soldiers. Is there one who will deny his share of these, or refuse to make up his bundle? The supposition is not to be entertained.

*The soldier guards each man's home, although he may be on the frontier of Virginia, or our own Sea-coast.*

Remember that our soldiers who are guarding our frontier, no matter where may be that frontier, may justly be considered as standing sentinel at each man's gate, no matter where that man's home may be. The defence of the frontier is necessarily the protection of all within it; and the army of the Potomac is no more the guard of our capitol at Richmond, than it is the guard of the town of Columbia, and of every plantation and hamlet between which, and the enemy, it interposes its powerful shield. It would be an ignorant and short-sighted view to suppose that, in guarding our frontier in Virginia, or on our own sea-coast, we are guarding Virginia or our own sea-coast alone. The frontier, which is in Virginia, or on the sea-coast to-day, if not guarded by a sufficient army, may in due time be transferred, by an advancing enemy, to Columbia or Greenville, to Yorkville or Spartanburg. The intelligent mind, then, can readily contemplate the sentinel who keeps watch and ward for us on the banks of the Potomac, or on

the sea-coast, as substantially doing the same thing for every town and family, between those frontiers and his own home. Let us, then, fellow-citizens, familiarize ourselves to this undeniable truth. Let us realize the fact that, although in person our armies may be in Virginia or on the sea-coast, they are virtually, and for all the purposes, for which the army is raised, protecting each man's home in the interior, no matter where that home may be.

Contemplate, then, the faithful sentinel, doing at your own gate what he is doing in Virginia or on the sea-coast—pacing his weary rounds by day and by night, neither slumbering nor sleeping—eyes to the army, to warn it as well as yourselves, of any danger that may be approaching. Contemplate him performing this dreary duty, without murmuring, without reward, or hope of reward, and at much peril of his life, and consider that he undergoes all this, that you may enjoy your home in peace, that your family may be protected from insult, and your property be preserved from spoliation. With such motives prompting him, and with such priceless favors conferred upon you, could you pass that man without admiration, gratitude, respect, and without having feelings of the kindest good will springing up toward him?

*Who can then refuse to relieve his wants?*

Should you pass him at your gate, while performing these arduous duties which redound so greatly to the safety and comfort of those who are dear to you, and see that he was *shoeless* and *in rags*, would not the immediate impulse of justice and gratitude be, to hasten into your dwelling and set your wife and daughters about the task, so grateful to them, of making him a warm and comfortable suit; or, if you had no materials with which to make these, would you not resort to your own wardrobe and share with him your own garments and shoes?

Again, should you, from your own sheltering domicile, behold this faithful man, exposed to all the inclemencies of winter, drenched with rain and the driving sleet, still pacing his dreary watch before your gate; should you see him next, thus cold and wet, and in his tattered or threadbare clothes, throw himself upon the cold ground, without covering or shelter, to seek for rest and sleep, what, let us ask, would be the promptings of every generous mind, but to send to him instant and sufficient relief? Who would not send him, if he could, a great-coat to shelter him while on duty, and a blanket to cover him at night? Who could find peace within his own bosom, although surrounded by all the comforts of a luxurious home, so long as he reflected that the *benefactor*, to whom he was indebted for all these enjoyments, was suffering so many, and such severe privations on his account? The piercing cold, and the howling storm which were raging without upon the soldier's unsheltered head, would be but so many angry messengers of conscience to reproach him of his ingratitude and meanness, and to drive sleep from his eyelids.

Let no one say that this is an exaggerated representation of the case. It is only necessary to consider the army in its true functions—and that is, as the defender of every man and every man's family and property, *at his own door*, no matter how remote the frontier may be, which is actually occupied; and then every man will feel (as it is his duty to do) that he has a *personal* interest in making that army as efficient as possible, for his *own* defence and security.

### *What should be Contributed.*

Let every one, then, come forward, as we have before said, and contribute liberally, in *money* if he have it, to purchase clothing and material to be wrought up into clothing; in *cloth* if he have it, and in *blankets*, or *woolen carpets* as a substitute for blankets. The quilted "comforts," so called, are not considered so useful to the soldier as the blanket, which is easier dried after being wet. Let the "comforts," then, be retained for use at home, and our blankets be sent to our soldiers. But some one, perchance, poor in this world's goods, may say: "I have no blankets to give, and no carpets to cut up as a substitute; I have but this coarse 'comfort' to contribute; it is the best, nay, it is all I have." Then give that, thou generous one, and as God blessed the offering of the indigent widow, although it was but a mite, so your country, in the name of the soldier, will bless you. Let no one, then, consider her offering too small, or insignificant—he it only a pair of socks, or a cotton shirt, or a pair of drawers, it will *help* to clothe at least one soldier.

### *Should be sent without Delay.*

But whatever you do, fellow-citizens, do quickly. Before the earliest contributions can reach our men, winter, with all its horrors, will be upon them; with its pleurisies, its pneumonias, and its rheumatisms, to fill our hospitals, and to thin our ranks. The condition of our South Carolina soldiers in the army of the Potomac is represented to be deplorable, and should make us blush for shame, as their countrymen. It is stated in the public prints, "That since they started on this campaign, they have marched hundreds of miles, and fought, and helped to win battle after battle; and now they are nearly naked, having lost and worn out the little clothing and blankets they had." "I have seen (says the same eye-witness) many a South Carolinian going about without the sign of a shoe, or a coat, or a blanket;" and he testifies that "the South Carolina troops are the worst clad troops in the field." And private letters, we grieve to say, fully corroborate these public accounts.

This scolding reproach should not for a day be allowed to rest upon the fair name of our state. Listen not to the preachings of those who may say that "it is the duty of the *Confederate Government* to clothe our troops;" or, that it is owing to the *carelessness* of our troops that their blankets and clothes are worn out. This is the "rat-hole" of the virtuous *sneaks*, the penurious, and mean-spirited (into which they retreat), to avoid the duty of contributing their proper share. Suppose we *admit* the correctness of the propositions in the abstract, which we may do in the first case. What then? The *fact* being undeniable, that our soldiers *are* without shoes, and in rags, and without blankets; would these virtuous casuists leave them in that condition, when the government may be *unable* to fulfil its duties to them, or would they exact of soldiers, for weeks on rapid marches, to-day, fording rivers in their shoes, to-morrow engaged in raging battles, or pursuing the enemy, in their wet shoes, so unpropitious to their durability—would they, we ask, exact of our soldiers, under such circumstances, the same *austere* prudence, and economy, which they might be expected to practice if at their peaceful homes, surrounded by their daughters and wives? Surely no reasonable man would insist upon such a measure of exact behavior.

Let us then, fellow-citizens, spurning these mean subterfuges, and rejecting all trivial excuses, come up to our great work with manliness and can-

dor ; and then, if every man will do his duty, many weeks will not have passed away, before the troops of South Carolina in the army of the Potomac, from being as they are now, the "worst," will be the best clad in the field.

J. TOWNSEND, *Chairman.*

J. L. REYNOLDS.

J. C. LYONS.

S. R. BLACK.

WM. REYNOLDS.

JOHN FISHER.

THOMAS DAVIS.

W. A. HARRIS.

W. F. DESAUSSURE.

ANDREW CRAWFORD.

C. R. BRYCE.

J. W. PARKER.

WM. MARTIN.

Rev. R. W. Barnwell moved the adoption of the report and address. Hon. Wm. F. DeSaussure, in seconding the motion, addressed the meeting at some length, when it was moved that the Central Committee consist of ten ; and, on motion, the Chairman of this meeting was added as Chairman of the Central Committee, with power to appoint at his leisure.

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

M. LABORDE, *Chairman.*

EDWARD HOPE, *Secretary.*





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